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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/821,651	03/29/2001	Takao Yoshimine	275747US6	5730

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EXAMINER	
CHANKONG, DOHM	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2152	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/05/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/821,651	YOSHIMINE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Dohm Chankong	2152	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *11 October 2006*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1,4-6,9-11,14-16 and 19-21* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1, 4-6, 9-11, 14-16 and 19-21* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1> This action is in response to Applicant's amendment, filed 10.19.2006. Claims 1, 6, 11 and 14-16 have been amended. Claims 1, 4-6, 9-11, 14-16 and 19-21 are presented for further examination.

2> This is a non-final rejection.

Response to Arguments

3> The Office notes that claim 21 was not rejected in the previous action. Therefore, this action is non-final to allow Applicant to properly respond to the new rejection for claim 21 as set forth in this action.

4> Applicant's arguments filed 10.19.2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's amendment do not overcome the prior art references. As interpreted by the Office, Applicant's amendments are directed towards a control file capable of being edited by a user and that controls distribution of content that is stored within the exclusive storage area of a user. Cohen's authorization list reads on this functionality.

As claimed, Applicant's control file comprises three elements, (1) condition data set up through an interface, (2) the condition data directed towards managing distribution of an associated content file and (3) user information data related to the user registration. As noted by Applicant, Cohen discloses that an owner of a network vault may change, add, or remove user permissions and otherwise administer the vault [column 11 «lines 24-29»]. The

manifestation of a user's editing of user permissions is the authorization list that contains identifiers of users who may or may not access the content stored within the vault [column 13 «lines 54-58»].

With respect to the second element, Cohen's user identifiers within the authorization list are analogous to condition data that manages distribution of associated content in that content cannot be distributed to particular users depending on whether they are on the list and whether they have the appropriate permissions to obtain content within the vault.

With respect to the third element, each authorization list is coupled to the particular owner for each vault. Therefore, it can reasonably be inferred from Cohen's functionality that the authorization list contains user information related to the user registration (the owner of the vault storage area). If the authorization list did not contain said user information, Cohen's system would be unable to effectively administer the privileges and authorization set forth by the authorization list for the owner user's vault storage area [column 13 «lines 52-60» : a database containing information as to the identity of the owners of the network vault].

Finally, with respect to the first element, an interface which enables editing of the condition data, the interface can be reasonably inferred from Cohen's disclosure. Cohen discloses that an owner of a vault can change, add or remove user permissions [column 11 «lines 24-29»]. Cohen also discloses that the owner relies upon a specific GUI to interact with his vault storage area [column 9 «lines 2-7»].

Based on the aforementioned remarks, the Office submits that Cohen discloses the new limitations as claimed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5> Claims 1, 4-6, 9-10, 16 and 19-21 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

a. As to claims 1, 6 and 16, they lack proper antecedent basis: "the associated control file".

b. As to claim 21, it lacks proper antecedent basis: "the data file", "the media file". For this action, the Office interprets "the data file" as "the content file" and "the media file" as "the control file".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

6> Claims 1, 5-6, 10-11, 15-16 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prust, U.S Patent No. 6.714.968 in view of Burson et al, U.S Patent No.

6.405.245 ["Burson"], in further view of Cohen, U.S Patent No. 6.356.941, in further view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art ["AAPA"].

7> Only those claims that have been amended by Applicant's remarks are formally addressed in this action. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action, see non-final rejection, filed 7.13.2006.

8> As to claim 1, Prust discloses an information processing device, comprising:

transmitting means for transmitting user registration data necessary to secure a user's exclusive storage area in a server connected in a network, to said server over a network [abstract | Figure 8 «items 805, 807» | column 7 «line 59» to column 8 «line 7»];

receiving means for receiving address data designated as an access point indicating said exclusive storage area oriented to said user registration data from said server over said network [column 5 «lines 29-38» | column 6 «lines 23-36 and 59-62» where: Prust discloses using a web browser to access the storage area. Therefore it is implicit that an address is transmitted from which the user can access the area]; and

wherein each of said automatic upload programs is programmed to connect to a unique part of said exclusive storage area [Figure 5 | column 6 «lines 28-35» where : Prust';

connection means for performing connection processing automatically to said access point in the said server based on said address data received by said receiving means [column 6 «lines 23-36» where: Prust discloses automatically connecting to the remote directory using a script];

transfer means for writing a data file to the exclusive storage area automatically when connection processing is performed [Figure 5 where : the script automatically writes information the specified storage area when connected to the storage area].

Prust discloses utilizing scripts (upload programs) to connect to remote storage but does not disclose:

that the address data is defined, in part, by the user registration data;

receiving the one or more automatic upload programs;

performing connection processing automatically via actuation of a corresponding upload icon; and

transferring a control file used for controlling access by another user.

9> Applicant submits as prior art that it is well known, when assigning an exclusive storage area in the server to a user, that a universal resource locator (URL) related to the user ID, is issued. Applicant's specification, pg. 2, ¶ 2. Prust implicitly suggests such functionality as well [Figures 6 & 7]. Prust discloses that the user is assigned storage area with addresses having the same name as the user ID [the name "Prust" defines the storage directory in Figure 6, and defines the email address in Figure 7].

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the combination of Prust and the AAPA disclose that the address data is defined, in part, by the user registration data (such as a user ID). One would have been motivated to provide the user with the ability to easily access and transfer data to his storage information [see Prust column 7 «lines 7-34»].

10› In the same field of invention, Burson discloses a system for accessing personal data. One of the methods that Burson achieves this functionality is by having the client download an application to the client; the application is then responsible for automated data communications between the client and the server [Figure 2 | column 3 «lines 15-29» | column 15 «lines 1-45» where : the receiving means is implied and inherent in Burson's client computer and software. The computer is connected to the Internet and downloads the necessary automatic upload program; therefore, the client must be equipped with a receiving means that downloads the program].

Performing connection processing automatically via actuation of a corresponding upload icon is a well known feature in the art. Burson also discloses this feature [abstract | column 14 «lines 45-48»]. Burson discloses that the link or other interactive mechanism is advantageous because it provides a user a quicker mechanism for accessing his access point [column 14 «lines 49-54»].

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate Burson's downloading functionality into Prust's system, modifying Prust's scripts so they are downloaded from the server as taught by Burson. One would have been particularly motivated to perform such an implementation to enable Prust's scripts to be platform independent (JAVA applet, as is well known in the art) and would further enhance Prust's stated objective of providing a variety of remote access possibilities to the storage site. It is further advantageous to provide automated actions for logging on and accessing access points within a remote storage server as is taught in Burson.

11> In the same field of invention, Cohen is directed towards establishing personal network vaults for users that enable secure remote storage of files. A distinguishing function proposed in Cohen is that users have control over who can access their personal vault [column 7 «lines 60-65» | column 11 «lines 26-29»]. This is achieved in part through the use of an authorization list, that permits only authorized users access to a particular file within the vault. Therefore, Cohen teaches an interface for editing condition data to manage distribution of an associated content file, transferring an associated control file controlling distribution of the transferred content file from the server, the control file including the condition data set up through the interface and user information data related to the user registration [column 4 «lines 55-59» | column 9 «lines 2-7 and 20-22» | column 15 «line 61» to column 16 «line 3» | column 16 «lines 15-20» where : Cohen discloses a client-side user interface that enables the user to perform administrative actions, such as using the access list for controlling who as access to his vault and transferring files to the server. See also response to Applicant's remarks above]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate Cohen's authorization list functionality into Prust's remote user storage system for the obvious advantages of enabling security features and allowing a user to control which other users have access to their files.

12> As to claims 6, 11 and 16, as they are merely methods or mediums that perform the same steps of the device of claim 1, they are rejected for the same reasons set forth for claim 1, supra.

13> Claims 4, 9, 14, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being anticipated by Prust, Burson, Cohen and AAPA, in further view of Hayes, Jr. et al ("Hayes"), U.S Patent No. 6,339,826.

14> Only those claims that have been amended by Applicant's remarks are formally addressed in this action. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action, see non-final rejection, filed 7.13.2006.

15> Claims 1, 6, 11, 16 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over Prust, U.S Patent No. 6.714.968 in view of Burson et al, U.S Patent No. 6.405.245 ["Burson"], in further view of Coates et al, U.S Patent No. 6.952.737 ["Coates"], in further view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art ["AAPA"].

16> As to claim 1, Prust discloses an information processing device, comprising:

transmitting means for transmitting user registration data necessary to secure a user's exclusive storage area in a server connected in a network, to said server over a network [abstract | Figure 8 «items 805, 807» | column 7 «line 59» to column 8 «line 7»];

receiving means for receiving address data designated as an access point indicating said exclusive storage area oriented to said user registration data from said server over said network [column 5 «lines 29-38» | column 6 «lines 23-36 and 59-62» where: Prust discloses

using a web browser to access the storage area. Therefore it is implicit that an address is transmitted from which the user can access the area]; and

wherein each of said automatic upload programs is programmed to connect to a unique part of said exclusive storage area [Figure 5 | column 6 «lines 28-35» where : Prust';

connection means for performing connection processing automatically to said access point in the said server based on said address data received by said receiving means [column 6 «lines 23-36» where: Prust discloses automatically connecting to the remote directory using a script];

transfer means for writing a data file to the exclusive storage area automatically when connection processing is performed [Figure 5 where : the script automatically writes information the specified storage area when connected to the storage area].

Prust discloses utilizing scripts (upload programs) to connect to remote storage but does not disclose:

that the address data is defined, in part, by the user registration data;

receiving the one or more automatic upload programs;

performing connection processing automatically via actuation of a corresponding upload icon; and

transferring a control file used for controlling access by another user.

17> Applicant submits as prior art that it is well known, when assigning an exclusive storage area in the server to a user, that a universal resource locator (URL) related to the user ID, is issued. Applicant's specification, pg. 2, ¶ 2. Prust implicitly suggests such functionality

as well [Figures 6 & 7]. Prust discloses that the user is assigned storage area with addresses having the same name as the user ID [the name "Prust" defines the storage directory in Figure 6, and defines the email address in Figure 7].

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the combination of Prust and the AAPA disclose that the address data is defined, in part, by the user registration data (such as a user ID). One would have been motivated to provide the user with the ability to easily access and transfer data to his storage information [see Prust column 7 «lines 7-34»].

18› In the same field of invention, Burson discloses a system for accessing personal data. One of the methods that Burson achieves this functionality is by having the client download an application to the client; the application is then responsible for automated data communications between the client and the server [Figure 2 | column 3 «lines 15-29» | column 15 «lines 1-45» where : the receiving means is implied and inherent in Burson's client computer and software. The computer is connected to the Internet and downloads the necessary automatic upload program; therefore, the client must be equipped with a receiving means that downloads the program].

Performing connection processing automatically via actuation of a corresponding upload icon is a well known feature in the art. Burson also discloses this feature [abstract | column 14 «lines 45-48»]. Burson discloses that the link or other interactive mechanism is advantageous because it provides a user a quicker mechanism for accessing his access point [column 14 «lines 49-54»].

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate Burson's downloading functionality into Prust's system, modifying Prust's scripts so they are downloaded from the server as taught by Burson. One would have been particularly motivated to perform such an implementation to enable Prust's scripts to be platform independent (JAVA applet, as is well known in the art) and would further enhance Prust's stated objective of providing a variety of remote access possibilities to the storage site. It is further advantageous to provide automated actions for logging on and accessing access points within a remote storage server as is taught in Burson.

19› In the same field of invention, Coates is directed towards establishing virtual file systems that allows clients to upload and download content files [abstract]. A distinguishing function proposed in Coates is that users have control over the availability of uploaded content files; for example, a client can "specify a period of time that the SRL (storage resource locator) is valid (i.e., a period of time that the end -user may access the file)" [column 27 «lines 20-24»].

Therefore, Coates teaches transferring an associated control file controlling distribution of the transferred content file from the server, the control file including the condition data set up through the interface and user information data related to the user registration [column 7 «lines 47-53» | column 27 «lines 11-40» : specifying a period of time when a file can be accessed by another end-user]. Coates does not expressly disclose an interface for editing condition data to manage distribution of an associated content file. However Coates does disclose that the client is permitted to specify the time period

(analogous to Applicant's condition data) that the file is available; this feature implies an interface that would allow the client to specify the time period. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate Coates's SRL functionality into Prust's remote user storage system for the advantages of enabling security features and allowing a user to control when and how end-users can access their files.

20› As to claims 6, 11 and 16, as they are merely methods or mediums that perform the same steps of the device of claim 1, they are rejected for the same reasons set forth for claim 1, supra.

21› As to claim 21, Prust does not expressly disclose the data file is a movie file and the control file comprises at least one of a time and date for scheduling access to the media file.

22› Coates discloses the data file is a movie file and the control file comprises at least one of a time and date for scheduling access to the media file [column 18 «lines 2-12» | column 27 «lines 11-40»]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate Coates' control file functionality into Prust's personal storage system to enable a client to specify when certain files can be accessed because such a feature would improve Prust's system.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Peterson, Jr., U.S Patent No. 5.857.020;

Linden et al, U.S Patent No. 6.360.254;

O'Hare et al, U.S Patent No. 6.484.173.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dohm Chankong whose telephone number is 571.272.3942. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Friday [7:30 AM to 4:30 PM].

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bunjob Jaroenchonwanit can be reached on 571.272.3913. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

DC

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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER